



August 15, 2006

INVENTOR: Benton F. Baugh
TITLE: ROTO-ERECTOR FOR J-LAY PIPELAYING SYSTEM
APPLICATION NO.: 10/678,282
ART UNIT: 3652
EXAMINER: Gregory W. Adams

Per our telephone conversation, I have added the words "in a radial direction" to claim 1 to emphasize that the pipeline is being moved further from the rotational axis rather than pivoting around it.

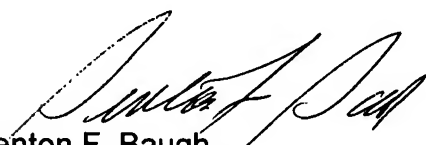
In claim 7 I have added "radially away from said rotational axis" in line 15, "about a pivot axis" in line 11, changed "rotational" to "pivot" in line 12, and "about said pivot axis" in line 20.

The third independent claim (12) already had "extending said pipe section away from said rotational axis" in line 1 of page 4 and so was not modified.

As I commented, the Frijns method is limited by only rotating the pipe section to the mast at a fixed distance from the rotational center, sort of a one dimensional swing. Our improved method provides not only the swing, but also radial movement to give substantially better flexibility in the operations.

I also see the scissors movement as a critical part of this as it provides for straight radial movement away from the rotational axis. Frijns uses a pivot movement rather than a scissors movement, leaving him with limited mobility of his pipe movement.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter.



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